LISTING OF CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone, comprising:

an implant body;

a first attachment zone configured for attachment to a first portion of a hyoid bone;

a second attachment zone configured for attachment to a second portion of a hyoid bone;

a connection between the first and second attachment zones which allows a pivotal movement of the first and second attachment zones with respect to each other; and

a lock carried by the body, the lock being movable with respect to at least one of the first and second attachment zones among a plurality of locked positions, wherein when positioned in one of the plurality of locked positions, the lock inhibits the pivotal movement between the first and second attachment zones to a first angular configuration, and when positioned in a different one of the plurality of locked positions, the lock inhibits pivotal movement between the first and second attachment zones to a second angular configuration different from the first angular configuration.

28. (Original) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone as in claim 27, wherein the connection comprises a flexible portion of the body.

29. (Original) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone as in claim 27, wherein the connection comprises a hinge.

30. (Previously Presented) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone as in claim 27, wherein the connection comprises a flexible element carried by the body.

31. (Original) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone as in claim 27, wherein the lock comprises a threaded shaft.

32. (Original) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone as in claim 27, wherein the lock comprises an interference fit.

33-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) An implant for positioning in a pharyngeal structure, comprising:

an implant body;

a first tissue contact zone configured for contacting a first portion of a pharyngeal structure;

a second tissue contact zone configured for contacting a second portion of a pharyngeal structure;

a connection between the first and second contact zones which allows a pivotal movement of the first and second contact zones with respect to each other; and

a lock carried by the body and moveable with respect to at least one of the first and second attachment zones among a plurality of locked positions, wherein when positioned in one of the plurality of locked positions, the lock inhibits the pivotal movement between the first and second attachment zones to a first angular configuration, and when positioned in a different one of the plurality of locked positions, the lock inhibits pivotal movement between the first and second attachment zones to a second angular configuration different from the first angular configuration.

47. (Original) An implant for positioning in a pharyngeal structure as in claim 46, wherein at least one portion of the pharyngeal structure comprises a suprahyoid muscle.

48. (Original) An implant for positioning in a pharyngeal structure as in claim 46, wherein at least one portion of the pharyngeal structure comprises a hyoid bone.

49. (Original) An implant for positioning in a pharyngeal structure as in claim 46, wherein at least one portion of the pharyngeal structure comprises an infrahyoid muscle.

50. (Previously Presented) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone for providing space for passage of a patient's pharynx, the implant comprising:

an implant body comprising:

a first attachment zone configured for attachment to a first portion of a hyoid bone;

a second attachment zone configured for attachment to a second portion of a hyoid bone, the second attachment zone being coupled to the first attachment zone at a flex point to provide a pivotable relationship therebetween; and

a locking member attached to the first attachment zone and the second attachment zone for selectively adjusting, and fixing, the pivotable relationship between the first attachment zone and second attachment zone.

51. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 50 wherein the flex point comprises a pivot joint.

52. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 51 wherein the pivot joint comprises a ball and socket joint.

53. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 51 wherein the pivot joint comprises one or more wires.

54. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 53 wherein the wires resist axial loading.

55. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 54 wherein the wires are capable of limited flexion.

56. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 51 wherein the pivot joint comprises one or more ribbons.

57. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 50 wherein the flex point comprises a clevis pin.

58. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 50 wherein the flex point comprises a hinge joint.

59. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 50 wherein the locking member comprises an elongated member having two interfaceable ends, at least one of the ends comprising a threaded end.

60. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 50 wherein the locking member comprises a threaded shaft.

61. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 50 wherein the locking member comprises an interference fit.

62. (Previously Presented) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone, comprising:

an implant body having a first attachment zone configured for attachment to a first portion of a hyoid bone and a second attachment zone configured for attachment to a second portion of a hyoid bone;

a connection between the first and second attachment zones which allows a pivotal movement of the first and second attachment zones with respect to each other among a plurality of angular orientations; and

an adjustment mechanism coupled to each of the first and second attachment zones, the adjustment mechanism adapted to be movable among a plurality of positions with respect to the implant body, wherein when disposed in one position of the plurality of positions, the adjustment mechanism locks the first and second zones in a first angular configuration, and when disposed in a different one of the plurality of positions, the adjustment mechanism locks the first and second zones in a second angular configuration different from the first configuration.

63. (Previously Presented) An implant for attachment to a hyoid bone, comprising:

an implant body having a first attachment zone configured for attachment to a first portion of a hyoid bone and a second attachment zone configured for attachment to a second portion of a hyoid bone;

a connection between the first and second attachment zones which allows a pivotal movement of the first and second attachment zones with respect to each other among a plurality of angular orientations; and

an adjustment mechanism coupled to each of the first and second attachment zones, the adjustment mechanism adapted to be disposed in a plurality of positions with respect to the implant body, wherein when disposed in each of the plurality of locked positions the adjustment mechanism locks the first and second attachment zones in a different respective angular orientation.